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The Hongkong Telegraph

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Humidity 84 78

August 7, 1917, Temperature 6 a.m. 79 2 p.m. 83
Humidity 86 77

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1918.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE FIGHTING ON THE VESLE.

STUBBORN RESISTANCE BY THE GERMANS.

A DECISION OF INTENSE SIGNIFICANCE APPROACHING.

London, August 5. Reuter's correspondent at the French Headquarters, telegraphing on the afternoon of August 5, says:—The enemy's artillery fire is very heavy along the whole line of the Vesle, and the Germans are opposing with very vigorous resistance. Nevertheless, French patrols crossed the river at several points between Sermeuse and Fismes, where the Americans crossed, and between Fismes and Metzison. The Germans on the north bank are abundantly supplied with machine guns, and their aviators are machine-gunning our troops. Between Muizon and Bapaume, where we are firmly established on the south bank, there has been the hardest fighting. A hot encounter occurred, notably at Vauzelles Farm, near Muizon, for the passage of the river. After it had been captured, the Germans sent across two detachments to retake it, both of which were repulsed after a severe fight. West of Bapaume, the enemy stubbornly resisted our passage of the river. On the Aire, the French have occupied the whole line of wooded hills overlooking the steep river valley from Braches to Meenil St. Georges. Hard fighting is in progress at Hargicourt, on the left bank, where the Germans are holding the railway station. The enemy is still in Morisel.

The Situation on the Acre.

London, August 5. Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing on August 5, says:—Our patrols are most active in and around Albert and maintain close touch with the enemy. The Germans are holding in considerable strength the possible crossings of the Acre in Albert. The Germans are probably experiencing difficulties in the La Bassée sector owing to the heavy rains. Yesterday the signs of a slight withdrawal half a mile north of La Bassée Canal were noticed and we quickly pushed out patrols into what had been enemy positions. Much hostile shelling in this area throughout the day suggested that something was going on. Rumours of increasing despondency in enemy regiments and stories of soldiers refusing to go into the trenches are being circulated.

Germans' Declining Morale.

London, August 5. Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of August 5, says:—The new situation in the Acre area has at present settled down. The enemy front line across the Acre now skirts the high ground north of Dernancourt and from thence east to Meuse, so that the two sides face one another across a wide, deep valley with open observation, rendering infantry operations difficult and costly. The ebbing German morale under the influence of recent events is very real and somewhat widespread among the rank and file. The High Command is paying the penalty of concealment and misrepresentation. Prisoners are unanimous in discrediting the statements of General Ludendorff and generally agree that 80,000 prisoners and 800 guns have been captured since July 12.

A letter written by a member of a German Trench-Mortar Company, on July 27, has come into our possession. It reads:—You will be back in the thick of the mess. Shirk as much as you can. Don't be stupid. We are risking our lives for the Bigwigs. Our regiment is nearly wiped out, but we have not pushed very far. This is becoming the great massacre that ever was. Germany seems to be slowly crumbling to pieces."

A Decision Approaching.

London, August 5. Reuter's correspondent at the American Headquarters, telegraphing on the afternoon of August 5, says:—The last two days have been steady by a fresh show of resistance by the enemy, also by the necessity of getting the implements of battle again in proper pieces. The German retirement has been conducted most skilfully and not a man or a gun has been used to delay the advance more than was absolutely necessary. The enemy nowhere got so far away as to feel free from precaution, though we continued to see but a dwindling proportion of his rearguard. The pursuers discovered the defensive positions indicating a German intention to hold the immediate line south of the Vesle. The enemy continues bitter resistance between Fismes and Bapaume, which is most difficult country in which to advance. We are nearing a decision of intense significance to the future and the next few days will be occupied in preparing therefor.

German Resistance.

London, August 5. A French communiqué says:—There is nothing special to report. Our light units which have crossed the Vesle have everywhere encountered resistance by the enemy.

Local Actions.

London, August 6. A French communiqué says:—The whole of the Vesle front situation is unchanged. There were local actions between our light elements and enemy posts on the northern bank. It is quiet elsewhere.

British Aviation.

London, August 6. Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports on aviation:—The weather hampered operations on August 4. We dropped six and a half tons of bombs during the day and brought down six hostile machines. Night flying was impossible.

PEACE SUGGESTIONS.

No Proposals from Enemy Power.

London, August 5. In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Lee Smith, Mr. Balfour stated that nobody authorized to act on behalf of any enemy Power had recently made peace proposals or suggestions to the Government. The Government had received no communication from the Allies that such proposal had been submitted to them.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH AMBULANCE TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

Terrible Experience of Wounded Men.

London, August 5.

An Admiralty announcement states that the homeward bound ambulance transport, Warilda, was torpedoed and sunk on August 3. There are 123 missing, including seven of the crew.

Two British destroyers were mined and sunk on August 2. Ninety-seven lives were lost.

Fearful Struggles of the Helpless.

Later,

The torpedoing of the Warilda is one of the most harrowing disasters of submarineism. The ambulance boat carried 600 sick and wounded, and over 650 survivors were brought to a British port on the evening of August 4. The majority were clad in night clothes and had suffered severely from exposure. All accounts agree that a torpedo sank the ship. The escorting destroyers dropped depth bombs. The Warilda was returning from France and was a few miles from the English coast at about 1.30 a.m. when she was torpedoed. The night was dark, with a stiff breeze and a choppy sea. The torpedo struck the afterpart of the engine room, killing some of the engineers and ploughing the ship in darkness. Immediately above was the wardroom, with over one hundred patients whom the explosion killed outright, the others being trapped and drowned, as this part of the ship quickly settled down in the water. The survivors relate the most fearful struggles in the darkness in the rescue of helpless casualties. The Warilda floated for over two hours and remained steaming, impeding the rescuing, as the engines could not be stopped. Three or four boats were smashed while being lowered, the occupants being flung into the sea. The soldiers and nurses testify to the heroic efforts of the ship's officers and crew in the most difficult rescue work of transferring the casualties to the escorting destroyers in the rough sea. The morals of the wounded men lying on the deck is described as "too fine for words". One boat containing six womenfolk and wounded men was upset, but subsequently mad and refused to leave the ship, whereupon the submarine drew alongside. The women rushed up to the side and hurled the baby into the open hatch of the conning-tower, throwing herself overboard on the opposite side. The "baby" blew the bottom out of the submarine, and the "woman" in due course appeared at Buckingham Palace and received the Victoria Cross.

GERMAN RAID ON ENGLAND.

London, August 5.

The Press Bureau states:—Hostile airships approached the East Anglian coast at 9.30 on Monday night, but did not penetrate far inland.

THE SIBERIAN SITUATION.

Serious Food Situation.

London, August 5.

Reuter's correspondent at Vladivostok says the food situation in the eastern parts of West Siberia is a serious factor in the military position, the importation of large supplies being essential in order to relieve the famine stricken Irkutsk and Yenisei districts.

Allied Co-operation Likely.

London, August 5.

Reuter's correspondent at Harbin says that 500 Bolsheviks are now at Manchuria Station. The Chinese are not resisting, but co-operation between the various pro-Ally forces is likely.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

Soviet Leaders' Precautions.

London, August 5.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says it is reported from Moscow that owing to the discovery of a plot against them M. Lenin and M. Trotsky are strongly guarded whenever they appear in public.

THE ENTENTE AND RUSSIA.

London, August 5.

The French Press comments sympathetically on the Japanese declaration, which they state is full of dignity. The declaration sums up in most clear and precise terms the principles which prompt the Entente's policy regarding Russia.

RUSSO-FINNISH PEACE.

London, August 5.

It is reported from Amsterdam that Russo-Finnish peace negotiations have opened at Berlin.

AMERICAN MAN-POWER.

The New Selective Draft Bill.

London, August 6.

Reuter's correspondent at Washington says that Mr. Baker's Army Bill, extending the Selective Draft men to between 18 and 45 years, has been introduced to Congress and referred to Military Committees. It is hoped that the Bill will pass by September 1. The figures prepared by Mr. Baker show that 2,398,000 men will be affected in addition to the men between the ages of 21 and 31 in the draft under the present law.

U. S. AND CANADIAN SCHOONERS SUNK.

London, August 5.

Reuter's correspondent at Halifax says that three American schooners have been torpedoed off Sea Island, Yarmouth. The crews were rescued. A Canadian schooner has been submerged in the Bay of Fundy and the crew saved. They report that the submarine commander claimed that he laid the mine which sank the cruiser San Diego.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

OUR MYSTERY SHIPS.

How the U-Boats are Deceived.

London, August 6.

The Times, supplementing the information of U-boats, given in the recent speech by Sir Eric Geddes, mentions, incidentally, that several officers, notably the holder of the Victoria Cross, Gordon Campbell, have been decorated for services on these mystery vessels. It says that probably the first mention of mystery ships was in connection with the Bireleng, described at the time as an auxiliary cruiser, whose sinking of a U-boat on August 1, 1915, led to correspondence with the German Government and the German Press campaign about the "treachery" of British seamen, which campaign suddenly ceased at the beginning of 1917. It is now permissible to tell the public more of this subject, particularly as the Germans have yet to discover what has replaced this kind of warfare.

Much ingenuity has been displayed by Commanders of mystery ships and others in devising plans for the destruction of submarines. For instance, a retired Admiral commanding one of a Naval Reserve Captain, placed haystack aboard the vessel—an ancient looking craft—and, when duly summoned to surrender, complied and slung out the boats. Then the submarine received a broadside from the haystack. Again a battered tramp was limping in the North Sea when a submarine ordered the crew to abandon the ship. The submarine was so sure of its prey that the boats with which it intended to sink the tramp were brought up and placed around the base of the conning tower. It only required a shell or two to touch off the bombs and blow the submarine out of the water.

Still more ingenious was the baby ruse. On this occasion when a ship was ordered to surrender, to the accompaniment of a few shells, boats were lowered and pulled off, leaving aboard only a woman, who, with a baby in arms, ran shrieking up and down the deck. To the enquiries of the Germans, the answer was given that the Captain had been killed and that his wife had gone mad and refused to leave the ship, whereupon the submarine drew alongside. The woman rushed up to the side and hurled the baby into the open hatch of the conning-tower, throwing herself overboard on the opposite side. The "baby" blew the bottom out of the submarine, and the "woman" in due course appeared at Buckingham Palace and received the Victoria Cross.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE STRUGGLE IN FRANCE.

On the British Front.

London, Aug. 5.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We took prisoner a few in the neighbourhood of Neuville Vitasse. Hostile artillery was most active during the night opposite La Bassée and also active northward of Bethune and at points between Hazebrouck and Ypres.

A Tactical Success.

Amsterdam, Aug. 5.

General Ludendorff, interviewed as regards the Marne retreat, says: "This time our strategic offensive plan has not succeeded and was limited to a tactical success." He alleged that the Germans on the evening of 16th July, broke off operations because it was not worth the cost, "one of my principal duties, he said, being to spare the blood and strength of my soldiers. General Foch's counter-blow was intended to cut off the Germans south of the Aisne by a flank break through which was frustrated by the Seventh and Ninth Armies. By the 18th July we were fully masters of the situation and shall remain so. The gain of ground and the Marne are only catchwords."

Germans Conserving Man-Power.

Paris, Aug. 5.

The "Matin" publishes a secret order by General Ludendorff referring to certain new tactics, which he says: "Our situation as regards reserves compels us to perfect them. It is absolutely indispensable to avoid the old fault of attacking in mass formations and that by all means we reduce our losses."

German Line Cracked.

Paris, Aug. 5.

A Havas message says: Hurled back by General Foch's counter-blow, the Germans continued their retreat yesterday, still making great sacrifices in rearward resistance. Fismes was stormed by Americans and the line of the Vesle was reached and crossed at some points. The new Marne pocket has been wiped out and our front forms almost a straight line from Soissons to Rheims. This new advance to the Vesle will force the Germans to put on even more speed in their move to escape disaster and it is probable that they will be unable to make any serious stand until the Aisne is reached. At present they are fighting desperately with the Aisne behind them and if they cannot gain time the vast accumulation of stores and ammunition which they collected south of it for the great offensive against Paris will be lost. Already the Allies have made an immense capture of munitions, light railway material and other supplies.

A local but very important success was gained northwest of Rheims, greatly relieving the pressure on the Champagne city. While the German line north of the Marne has been broken up completely, the Allied pressure has become so severe that General Ludendorff has been compelled to withdraw troops at two other points and the line has cracked in the Aisne region between Montdidier and Aisne, where the enemy abandoned positions of importance. Perhaps this retirement is preliminary to a further move.

The total number of prisoners since July 18 is 40,000.

Other Reports.

London, Aug. 5.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We advanced our ports slightly at Pecq wood, eastward of Rebecq. There is hostile artillery shelling southward of Ypres.

A wireless German official states: Northward of Montdidier we withdrew from the west bank of the Aisne and Dombrook. We also withdrew to the north bank of the Vesle before a strong attack on Fismes.

(Continued on Page 8.)

ENEMY AIR HERO.

Gave Praise to his Foes.

The claim may fairly be made on behalf of the late Baron von Richthofen that he achieved the very considerable feat of rendering himself popular with his enemies, or, at any rate, with each of them as had occasion to come most into professional contact with him. Mr. O. G. Gray, editor of the Aeroplane, in one of his notes to Richthofen's book, "The Red Air Fighter," tells how a young British pilot, being called upon for a speech when entertained by his squadron after winning the DSO, proposed the German champion's health, a toast which the squadron duly honoured.

There is much in the book that is in harmony with this very pleasant and very British incident. Richthofen is revealed as a frank, egotistic young man, surprisingly free from "Bunniess," and bearing a marked resemblance to the average English public school boy of good family. He is very pleased with himself, but at times almost equally pleased with his opponents, to whose skill and daring he is always ready to pay tribute.

Richthofen, it is interesting to note, made his first appearance as an active service pilot at the end of April, 1916, so that his surprising career, in the course of which he was officially stated to have brought down 80 of his adversaries, lasted only two years.

Richthofen, like other aviators the world over, was thrown into a blue funk by his first solo flight, but he soon got over it, and after trying "infantry" flying, artillery observation work, and reconnaissance flights, found his true metier in fighting. He preferred "only the smallest aeroplanes" and some of his remarks on "big serial barges," as he called the German giant machines, make interesting reading to-day, in view of the published details concerning the latest Gotha monsters. "I find them horrible, unportmanlike, boring, and clumsy," he writes, and he proceeds to predict that aerial development will be along the lines of a diminution in size.

There is one anecdote which throws a singular light on the man's mentality. Once, before he became a pilot, he set out as observer in a machine which was "to delight the English with our bombs." While gesturing to the pilot he damaged his little finger. Just previously he had been annoyed that he could not judge as to the accuracy of his bombing, but "having been hit on the hand, I did not care for throwing further bombs. I quickly got rid of the lot, and we hurried home." He does not say, and a sparsely did not care, where the bombs fell which he "got rid of."

Richthofen mentions that his brother Lohar, whom he describes as "a butcher, not a sportsman," escaped from

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GENERAL NEWS.

"Manufacturing" Eggs. Japanese inventors have, says the *Japan Chronicle*, dangerous rivals in China, where an ingenious gentleman has applied for a patent on "a new machine for the manufacture of eggs." As the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce has granted the patent it is to be presumed that the inventor does not claim quite so much as the description implies.

Daring Chinese Bandits. Peking, 29th July.—A report from Linchungchen, a village 40 miles east of Peking, states that while a fair was in full swing a large band of armed mounted bandits surrounded the village, occupied the police-station, disarmed the police and then proceeded to loot the village. It is estimated that \$20,000 and many ponies, mules and cart-loads of goods were taken away, many of the villagers being compelled to drive the carts which carried away the loot.

War Orphans. The urgent need of saving child life has led Lady Arthur Pege to take up an extensive scheme for the care and education of the babies of soldiers who have lost their lives in the war. By means of a tombola and a bazaar, she hopes this summer to raise £50,000 to put the scheme on a firm basis. The care of the orphans of soldiers and soldiers' babies whose mothers could not look after them would be, said Lady Pege, the object of the scheme. The babies would be taken when two or three days old, and kept and educated until the age of 17, when they would be found a trade.

A Kitchener Story. Sir Lancelot Gubbins, late Director-General of Army Medical Service, speaking at the College of Ambulance recently, said when Kitchener was in India he wanted absolute proof that a thing was necessary before sanctioning it. Some scientific laboratories were required for measures to prevent enteric among the soldiers. Sir Lancelot went to Kitchener, who said, "Let me have your scheme, and come back in about a week." When he returned at the end of that time Kitchener said, "You are to have those laboratories. It is economy in the long run to provide them instead of losing 500 men a year from enteric."

The Dolls of Paris.

During the recent bombing of Paris little dolls of green and yellow wool have appeared in men's button-holes and ladies' corsages. They bear names, for they are the new "protectors" of Paris. One is "Ninette," the other is "Bintintin." The first is a Gotha mascot, the second preserves the wearer from Barth's shell. Paris, light-hearted as usual, even in the face of imminent danger, is delighted with its new toy. The little midinettes and other workers, old and young, vie with faultlessly dressed ladies and their efforts to secure these mascots, much to the satisfaction of the pavement traders, who are driving a roaring business, and who, with the variability of their kind, are never at a loss in describing in the most convincing terms the virtues of their wares.

How Kerensky Escaped. The following story is told of how M. Kerensky escaped from Russia. Kerensky left Russia early in June by way of Murmansk. Between the days of his disappearance from public affairs he spent the time in Novgorod, and Moscow. His wife remained in Russia, in hiding with their children. Although Kerensky's evasion of the police agents of his own country was facilitated by a moustache and long beard, which he grew in his long months of hiding, he did not think this sufficient to disguise himself, and added the dress of a soldier servant. A friend procured for him the pass and other papers of an orderly, and finally he began to move more publicly about the streets of Moscow. Finally he risked passage on the railway, and got out of the country.

One man with whom he has conferred much since his arrival in London is M. Stechovitch, his own appointee as Ambassador to Spain, who was summoned to London a few days before Kerensky's arrival.

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GENERAL NEWS.

NOTICES.

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SUSPECTED ARSON AT DAIRY. Since March last there have been eight outbreaks of fire on the wharf at Dairymen, large consignments of beans being destroyed. As already noted, incendiarism was suspected in each case, and the police have been especially trying to trace the incendiaries but without success. On July 15 at 2.30 a.m. another fire broke out on the wharf, but was quickly subdued by firemen who had been specially detailed to the place in view of the recent frequent outbreaks. This outbreak occurred not in a consignment of beans but among some tins of petroleum.

APPLICATION forms for Membership of the above Association may be obtained from all the Banks or from the undersigned.

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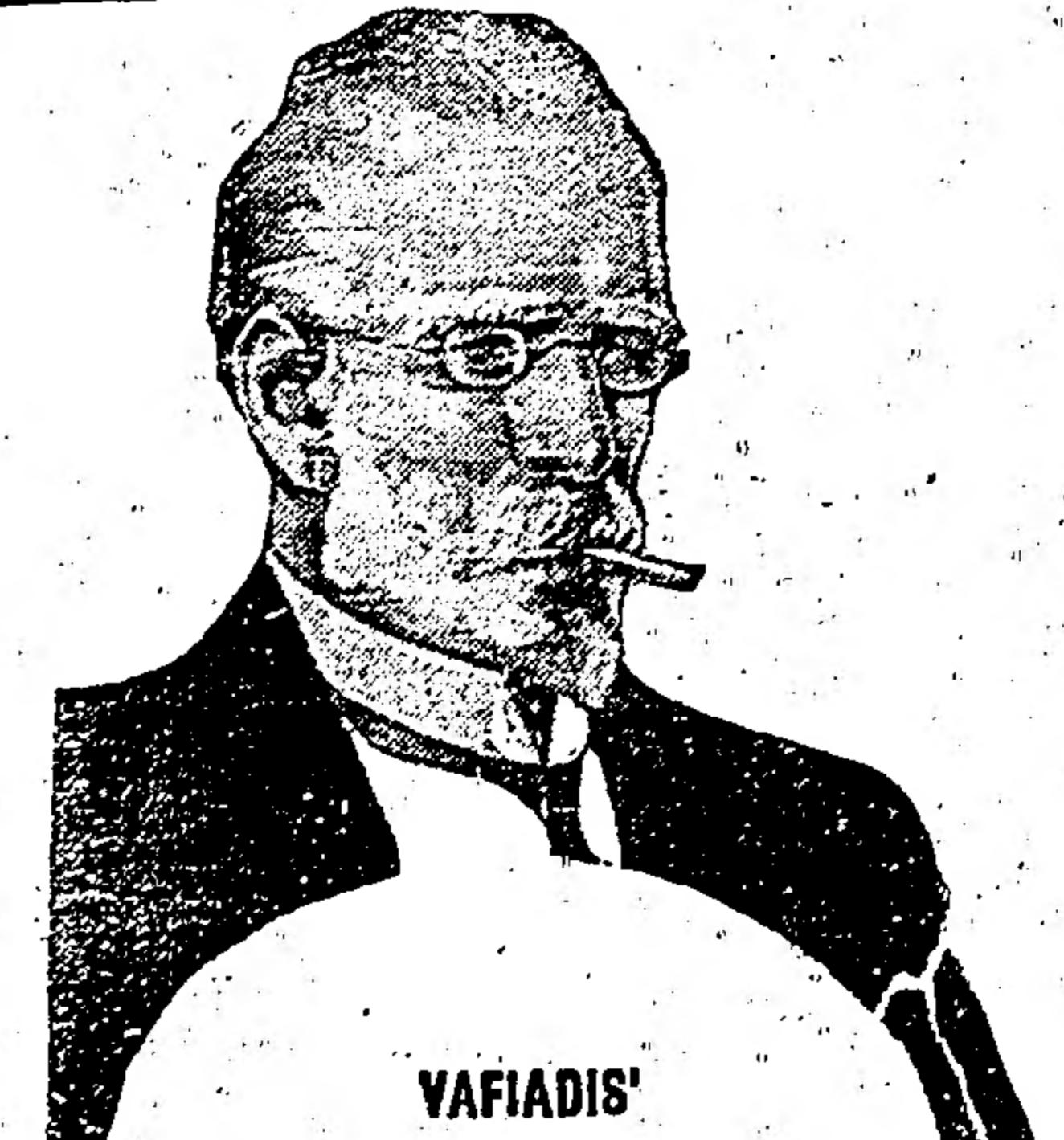
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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1918.

VICTORY FIRST.

What good purpose Lord Lansdowne imagines he is serving by his reiterated letters to the Press urging the desirability of seeking to commence negotiations with the enemy, we have not the faintest idea. His motives are of the purest, we have no doubt. Indeed, his past record is one beyond reproach, for his political career has been a series of valued services rendered to the State. But on this matter of peace or war, he appears to take a distorted view and to be consumed with the idea that a satisfactory solution of the issues can be attained without the need for further bloodshed. Today, the people of all the nations engaged in this grim struggle would joyously welcome peace; the world is sick of the terrible slaughter and the inhumanities of modern warfare—just as sick of these things as Lord Lansdowne is. But this is a case in which it would be the height of folly to stop halfway. There are unpleasant jobs which cannot be left unfinished. This war is one of them. And no half can rightly be called until there are assurances, definite and unambiguous, against a recurrence of this awful thing which has come to pass. That is a point which Lord Lansdowne and those who think with him appear never to realise.

The principal point in Lord Lansdowne's latest epistle is that the war will not be ended by a knock-out blow, and, that being the case, the sooner peace negotiations are begun, the better for all nations concerned. But does that submission correctly reflect the situation? We think not. The latest turn of events in the main theatre of the war shows this, if it shows anything: that gradually, but none the less surely, the Allies are getting the upper hand of the Hun. And it surely will not require so very much in the way of a superhuman effort to convert our present ascendancy into a series of acts amounting to a blow from which the enemy will never recover. No more ill-chosen time could possibly have been selected by Lord Lansdowne in which to launch his latest pie, for with every day that passes come fresh indications that the Germans are being beaten at their own game. As Mr. Churchill so well puts it in his clearly-reasoned letter, we have only to stand fast and the Germans must break. Now, more than at any other time during the war, the portents are in our favour, and to think of parleying with a foe who is reduced to a condition when he knows that all that is left for him is to make the best of a bad bargain, would be to cover the Allies with dishonour and to brush aside the noble sacrifices of the gallant dead. This is no moment in which to talk of meeting the Hun "in a reasonable spirit," as Lord Lansdowne puts it. The Hun has not been a shining example of sweet reasonableness in his dealings with those who have come under his power, and we know that if he ever comes out of this war with his military strength relatively unimpaired he will pursue the same monstrous policy which he animated him in the past.

Lord Lansdowne's process of reasoning is rather beyond our comprehension, as we imagine it is beyond that of most Britihera. He says the present time is opportune for the consideration of "reasonable proposals" because at present we are more confident than ever regarding our ability to hold our own in the deadly struggle. Then why talk of stopping the conflict? A man who catches a burly burglar and, after a tempestuous tussle, is just conscious that he is getting the upper hand of him, does not usually politely invite him to talk the matter over: if he is wise, he generally first makes sure that the law-breaker is underd, incapable of doing further mischief and then sees about fitting the punishment to suit the crime. So must it be in our attitude to Germany. She has wantonly broken all the laws of civilisation and still has the power and the will to continue on the same path. It is the Allies' business to render her impotent. That much accomplished, we can very well agree to hold a little discussion on the subject of what shall be done to her. But until that moment has arrived, it is futile to talk of negotiating with the arch-criminals of the world. Peace through victory is the only way.

The Ice-Cream Question.

At yesterday's meeting of the Sanitary Board not the least important question raised was that of licensing ice-cream vendors, though we regret to see the abhoring manner in which the matter was disposed of. There can be no two opinions about the desirability of supervising the makers of the various concoctions that are hawked, but it is the question of providing that supervision which seems to be the stumbling block. The official members of the Board seem to think that it would be an impossibility at present to carry out the extra work that would be entailed, but it is surely the function of a health department to make such provision rather than to allow the matter to pass by in seeming despair. That street-hawked ice cream is not wholesome was admitted when the Board decided to circularise the teachers of the various schools asking them to warn the pupils against eating the stuff, and the department's inability to do its own proper work was also admitted when it was suggested that the teachers might be asked to report whenever they thought an ice-cream vendor was selling unwholesome cream. There is sufficient proof of the wholly unsanitary conditions under which most of the ice-cream is made to warrant a special effort towards complete supervision, but the manner in which the question has now been dealt with is one that will make most people long all the more for a live and energetic municipal control of such matters.

A Serious Problem.

A point of the utmost importance was also touched upon when Mr. Bowley referred to the want of proper housing accommodation for Europeans. This is a matter upon which we have dilated in reason and cut of reason, and, though the problem is one of increasing gravity, no effort appears to be made by the authorities to deal with it. There was a time in the history of the Colony—a time well within the memory of many present-day residents—when no difficulty was experienced by Europeans in the matter of securing housing accommodation in decent, peaceful localities. That time has, unhappily, passed, until for most people the only alternatives are residence on the Peak, in hotels or over at Kowloon. Even in the last-named place, however, the situation is rapidly becoming worse, so that, thrown back on the other two alternatives, the European of average means finds it increasingly difficult to meet the cost of living. It has been bad enough for most people to face the steady rise in rentals during recent years; the situation has become aggravated by the consistent manner in which Europeans are being ousted out of localities where they had hoped they would be free from Oriental encroachment.

A Matter of Plain Justice.

Kennedy Road, Bowen Road, Robinson Road and Conduit Road—these are all localities in which this process of edging out Europeans is all too apparent. Indeed, the middle levels as a whole, which, from a standpoint of healthiness and accessibility, are most desirable residential districts, are being absorbed in this way, until it has become quite a common experience for Europeans to have to vacate their residences in favour of Chinese and Japanese. This ought not to be. In name, there is a "European reservation" in existence—but in name only. This is no question of racial distinction—we should be the last to raise issues of that kind—but it is a matter of ordinary justice to those who come from Home and who rightly expect to be able to live in comfortable surroundings. The problem will have to be faced sooner or later, and if the Government were to appoint a Commission to enquire into the whole subject we have no doubt that it would be astounded at the evidence which could be brought forward. If our Unofficial members of Council wish to do a real service to the European community they will bring the whole question up when the Budget debate takes place.

DAY BY DAY.

FOUNDERS OF RELIGION ARE
PORTS WHO ARE TAKEN LITERALLY.

To-morrow's Anniversary.

To-morrow is the second anniversary of Portugal's participation in the war on the Western Front.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 4d.

The Colony's Health.

During yesterday there were notified two fatal cases of plague (Chinese) and one fatal case of enteritis (Japanese).

A Young Unlicensed Hawker.

A small boy was charged before Mr. Wood at the Police Court this morning with hawking without a licence. Defendant pleaded guilty, and stated that he had to hawk in order to get a living. Mr. Wood took a lenient view of the case and discharged the defendant.

Crown Land.

At the P.W.D. office yesterday, lot of Crown land situated at Battery Street, Kowloon, containing 3,800 square feet, was let by public auction for a term of 75 years. The upset premium was \$1,280 and the lot was secured by Mr. Lo Chap-sam for \$1,359. There was also let Island Lot 2261, containing 7,573 square feet. The upset premium was \$3,786 and Mr. Ng Sam-sang was the highest bidder at \$4,580.

A Fine Reduced.

The case in which a Chinese contractor was fined \$200 by Mr. J. R. Wood for building the pillars of a godown in Belcher Street with materials other than those approved by the P.W.D. was again brought before Mr. Wood this morning. Mr. W. B. Hind appeared for the defence, and stated that although the contractor was guilty of violating the law, he asked his Worship to reduce the fine. His Worship accordingly granted this request and reduced the fine to \$150.

Victoria Theatre.

The new programme which the Victoria Theatre management put on last night, and which will be continued for two nights longer, was of a most varied and attractive character. Its main feature was the four-part film, "The Song of Fire," which is splendidly acted and most elaborately set. The story, too, is intensely gripping. Special mention should be made of the beautiful film showing the impressive mountain scenery in the locality of Lake Louise in British Columbia, while further items were a new American Gazette and a funny picture entitled "A Bag of Trouble." The whole programme is well worth seeing.

HONGKONG ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

Result of Celebrations and War Bond Drawing.

The following remittances have been made to London, through the local War Charities Committee on account of the funds raised as a result of last St. George's Day celebrations and War Bond Drawing:—

Prisoners of War Fund	26,090
King George's Fund for Sailors	5,000
British Red Cross Fund	5,500
British Red Cross (For Two Ambulances) ...	1,300
Drifters of the Diver Patrol	2,000
Montenegrin Red Cross Fund	1,500
St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors	1,500
French Red Cross Fund	1,500
Y.M.C.A. Huts	1,200
Officers' Families Fund	1,000
R. F. C. Hospital	1,000
Dr. Harrold's Homes	1,000
Lord Roberts Memorial Workshop	1,000
Blue Cross Fund	1,000

431,300

The final accounts cannot be made yet, but it is hoped that a further \$500 will be available for distribution in due course.

SANITARY BOARD.

Mr. Bowley Raises Important Questions:

The principal business at yesterday's meeting of the Sanitary Board was the consideration of the draft estimates for 1919. Mr. A. Gibson presided, and there were also present:—Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Hon. Mr. E. Hallifax, Dr. Ozario, Mr. Ng Hon Tse, Col. Crisp, Mrs. A. D. Hickling (Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. J. L. McPherson (Secretary).

The Estimates.

In regard to the draft estimates, Mr. Alabaster had moved that, instead of item 4a, the sum of \$100 should be voted to be spent on the employment of local labour whenever the Inspector in charge at Repulse and Deep Water Bays saw that the beaches in those places required cleaning. The condition of the beaches depended on the state of the tide in relation to the dumping spots of the Colony's refuse. At times the beaches were clean for weeks together. At other times a single coolie could not possibly deal with them.

The Chairman said there was no intention to employ a coolie permanently, but only for a month or two when conditions required.

Mr. Bowley, speaking on the estimates, said:—I have no doubt the Board will approve the very modest recommendations of the Sanitary Department with regard to changes in the Draft Estimates for 1919.

Most of these recommendations deal with increases in the scavenging staff and plant and street watering appliances necessitated by the increase in the population, and in dealing with the public health of a congested population in a tropical climate hardly anything can be more important than the speedy removal of all rubbish and objectionable matter which might, if left exposed, spread infection either directly or through the medium of insects or other vermin.

Street watering in the dry season is almost as important as scavenging in order to prevent the air from becoming impregnated with germ-laden dust.

Public Works Extraordinary.

The President has, in accordance with the custom of previous years, put down a small number of recommendations under this heading, and although, as the Board was reminded by the Vice-President at the last meeting, we have no control over such expenditure, there can be no harm in putting forward such recommendations as we deem to be in the interests of the public health for the consideration of the Government. I will run through the items suggested by the President, and then submit some further recommendations for your approval.

Paragraph 15—Inspectors' Quarters in Kennedy Town. The Board recommended a second storey to these quarters last year. As the Sanitary Staff has been again reduced the work of each officer must become more arduous, and it is more important therefore that the quarters provided should be adequate.

Paragraph 16—Quarters for Scavenging Coolies. This is a carry over from last year and is a most desirable improvement. I understand in April last that the matter was being jointly considered by the Sanitary and Public Works Departments in connection with the proposed wholesale poultry market near the Sailors' Home; the coolies to be housed over the market. I presume, however, that the latter coolies would be employed in the Western District, whilst the President's recommendations deal with the Eastern and Peak Districts. Both sets of quarters should, I think, be provided as soon as possible.

Paragraphs 17 and 18.—The recommendation of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health for additional rickshaw stands at Kowloon will, no doubt, be approved by the Board; as well as the small matter of additional filling stations for water carts.

I presume, sir, that in framing these recommendations your mind was filled with the idea that the strictest economy must be observed in respect of the war, and

therefore you refrained from referring to many much-needed improvements. We all hope, however, that the war will come to an end sooner or later, and, lest it should be considered from our silence that this Board is entirely satisfied with the sanitary conditions of the Colony, I venture to place on record my view that such conditions are far from being satisfactory.

The death-rate of the Colony is unduly high; the over-crowded condition of the Chinese and the want of proper housing accommodation for the Europeans are most detrimental to the public health. Our conservancy and scavenging systems are antiquated in the extreme.

Whenever the question of over-crowding is mooted, it is met from certain quarters by two stereotyped objections—one, "Oh, you must not do anything or you will drive away the Chinese;" the other, "during the present state of unrest in South China we must expect an influx of refugees." Consequently, all discussion on the subject is hushed. Now there are no signs in the Colony that the Chinese are easily driven away; they seem to like us; when they come to visit the Colony, many of them stay. And as to the unrest in South China, there seems to be about as much probability of the early settlement of the North and South question in China as there is in Ireland.

It must be admitted that over-crowding exists; in fact, the Medical Officer of Health (Mrs. Gals) informed me that, in her opinion the population—estimated at some 560,000—is more likely to be actually about one million. A table in the joint annual report of the P.O.M.O. and the M.O.H., based on the census of 1911, gives the estimated average number of inmates per floor at a fraction over 2, but anyone who is familiar with the interior of the houses in the Colony must see that this figure is ridiculously small. Every floor of a Chinese house nowadays swarms with women and children, and I think Dr. Gals's estimate of a million, which I have mentioned, is more likely to be below than above the truth.

The Board may ask, however, what has this to do with the Public Works Extraordinary? Well, sir, in this Colony we can do nothing without the assistance of the omnipresent Public Works Department. It provides our roads and sewers and our water supply, and controls Crown land and buildings. Now I submit that the way to reduce over-crowding is not to drive people out of the houses into the streets, but to provide them with other houses to live in. I do not suggest that the Public Works Department should undertake building schemes for the general population, but I do suggest that it should, as speedily as possible, provide accommodation for all Government employees, including sanitary coolies, in order to relieve the congestion of the tenement houses. I also suggest that vacant Crown land should be made more accessible in every way to those who wish to build houses—that Wan Chai and Shaukiwan Bays should be speedily reclaimed and laid out for building. In Kowloon there are extensive areas unbuilt upon which would, no doubt, be taken up if rendered easy of access and reasonably safe from robbery and fire.

The filling of the swamps which extend from Taikoktsui to Kowloon Tong, and from Matsukok to Kowloon City, the construction of the many magnificent roads which have been laid out on paper for Kowloon Peninsula, the extension of the railway to Kowloon and Kowloon City, and the provision of tram lines, or electric or motor buses from Kowloon Point to Samcipo and beyond on the west, and to Kowloon City and beyond on the east, and also across the Peninsula, the increase of the Police Force and the provision of motor-fire engines at Kowloon—all these would tend to encourage the spread of the population and relieve the congestion of this overcrowded city and thereby benefit the public health.

New motor roads to the higher levels as well as round the Island, regular ferry services to Cheung Chau, an improved train service to Tsipo and Faulei—these recommendations be made to the Government for adding conditions to the ice-cream hawk's license.

SOUTH CHINA AFFAIRS.

A Parliamentary Quorum.

The Canton Intelligence Bureau issues the following:—

The National Assembly reports that both Houses have now obtained a legal quorum. The Senate which requires 138 members to constitute a quorum has now registered and in attendance, 142. The House requires 299 members and now has 330. Twenty more M.P.'s have telegraphed from Shanghai that they have booked passage on the Korea Maru and are due to arrive in Canton within a few days. The members of the National Assembly aim to obtain two-thirds of the total membership for both Houses.

The main objects of the present session of the National Assembly are to pass the permanent Constitution and revise the laws governing the election of the members for both Houses.

would enable the European population to find build sites in healthy localities with fresh air and peaceful nights.

Then the Colony wants intercepting sewers with outfalls outside the harbour limit, a general spread of the water-carriage system with water-flushed troughs closed for the working classes, and refuse destructor at the east and west end in Kowloon, instead of spreading the city filth on the face of the water.

Last, but not least, a hospital for Europeans which is not in the centre of the Chinese town, and a hospital for consumptives on the Kowloon Hills far away from the feasted air of the city. When all these improvements have been made we may, perhaps, be able to express a little more satisfaction than we feel at present with regard to the sanitary condition of the Colony.

The President, in reply, said he thought all things mentioned were extremely desirable. There was, of course, the question of money to be considered. The present subject before the Board, however, was the estimates for 1919. He proposed that those should be passed.

Mr. Hallifax seconded, Mr. Bowley said he wished to suggest an amendment in regard to paragraph 16. He recommended that accommodation be provided for 150 scavenging coolies who were doing work on the Peak and also accommodation for coolies working in the Western District, provided that the quarters were above the wholesale poultry market which the Government had promised to erect.

The Chairman said accommodation was being provided in Katter Street. Plans had been submitted for the buildings.

The draft estimates were then approved.

The Ice-Cream Question.

On the question of the licensing of ice-cream vendors, Dr. Ozario moved that samples of ice-cream should be sent to the bacteriologist.

The Chairman replied that that was impossible. The Government bacteriologist

SEQUEL TO A COLLISION.

An Interesting Shipping Case.

In the Supreme Court this morning, before the Chief Justice, (Sir William Rees Davies), an extremely interesting case was heard, this being a motion to set aside a writ of summons in a case in which the Reksids Steam Shipping Co., owners of the ss. Competitor, sued the Mexico Steamship Co., Ltd., owners of the ss. Mexico City, for £7,201.0s. 9d., for damages which occurred as the result of a collision which took place between the two vessels while the ss. Competitor was moored alongside the quay at Havre, France, on February 13, 1916.

Defendants hold that by virtue of the provisions of Section 8 of the Maritime Conventions Act, 1911, this action is not maintainable, and they therefore set the writ aside.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C., (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnstone, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Eldon Potter, (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for defendants.

Mr. Potter, in opening the case and referring to the Maritime Conventions Act, said that this Act extended to this Colony and all British Dominions, and it clearly showed that the action was not maintainable in this claim because it was set out that no claim was maintainable against any vessel or owners in respect to any damage unless proceedings were instituted within two years from the date in which the damage was sustained. No application had been made on the other side for the time to be extended, — an application which they were entitled to make, but which they had not made. The only course left open to them (the defendants) was to ask His Lordship to strike out this action.

This was the first point, and a technical one which he wished to raise. Plaintiffs had no leave to stand at all in this Court. He felt bound to take this point, because he thought it was not devoid of merits. The point was that the application for an extension of time should have been made before the expiration of two years, as provided by the Act. He felt they must make this point although they would rather fight this case on its merits, because they thought they had the merits. At all events, he would not press it if His Lordship did not desire that he should.

The Chief Justice:—I see your point, Mr. Potter.

Mr. Potter went on to say that it was a highly technical point, but highly technical points were sometimes successful and they had to be taken. He would be sorry if the point was good because they would have preferred to fight their friends on the merits of the case. However, the point was there and he was not going to say another word about it.

Mr. Potter, continuing on another point, stated that plaintiffs had put them in such a position that it was practically impossible for them to get any evidence in Hongkong. The defendant Company is resident in Hongkong, and the collision took place in Havre harbour. The defendants' vessel was a requisitioned ship and had been taken out of defendants' hands. Defendants were out of touch with the witnesses. On plaintiff's own case a requisitioned ship has to be treated as a King's ship and the persons running that ship are not in defendants' service, or under their control, but are servants of the Admiralty. The defendants were a Chinese firm resident in Hongkong. As a matter of fact he did not think that plaintiffs could have brought the action in England successfully against the present defendants or against their ship, and he did not think that they could bring their action in Hongkong either, but if they could have brought their action in England, they ought to have done so. His (Mr. Potter's) second point was that His Lordship was not going to exercise discretion to extend the time if it was obvious that the case was adjourned.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS IN FRANCE.

A Big Undertaking.

American soldiers for the front in France travel over American roadbeds, in American cars, drawn for the most part by American locomotives. Before the end of 1918 the enlisted builders now at work expect to complete 800 miles of railway.

"We are building over here to fight a thirty-year war if necessary . . . We will use about 1,500 locomotives and of these 200 have arrived and have been assembled, and 400 more have been generously contributed by the Belgian Government. We will use about 20,000 American boxcars, now under orders and being constructed. These will be shipped to France and rebuilt. Several of our great transportation yards cover miles, and thousands of acres of storage space are being rapidly provided in order to act as a reserve for the enormous armament we will have at the front."

"It is not surprising under the circumstances," says the Indianapolis News, "that Germany should point out to France that the Americans seem to be coming in to stay. No harm will be done by such propaganda. France understands that America has come to stay until the fight is over, and that when that time comes American soldiers will be glad to go home, and their Government and fellow-citizens will be glad to have them back."

would also like to point out that it was plaintiffs' own case that at the time of the collision the ship was in the position of a King's ship, so much so that it could not even be arrested in the English Courts.

Both ships, he might emphasise, were requisitioned ships and under the control of the Admiralty. He did not care if the persons that left Hongkong harbour were on the ship when she was in the collision; she was still a King's ship and they were in the service of the Admiralty. If they were going to show His Lordship that they were not liable, it did not seem any use for His Lordship to exercise his discretion as to the extension of time. He might mention that the unfortunate vessel had now been sunk by a torpedo, but, all the same, the defendant firm were held liable. She had been submarine, but the plaintiff had come out here to bring their action against the owner. If the vessel at the time of the collision was a King's ship, he was going to show His Lordship that they were saved from liabilities. A controlled ship was treated in all respects as a King's ship. The ship was taken by the Admiralty to be used for the purposes of the Government, and all the owners did was to take the monthly payments from the Admiralty. While that vessel was under Government control, she collided with another vessel under similar control, yet His Lordship was asked to state that the owner in Hongkong, who had nothing whatever to do with the vessel then, and whose ship was taken from him by the Government, was civilly liable for the damage. He (Mr. Potter) hardly thought that the Admiralty would stand for such a proposition. It was a year after the vessel had been requisitioned that it was in collision. The position was hopelessly impossible.

Opposing the motion that the case be set aside, Mr. Pollock said he would show His Lordship the clearest admission on the part of the defendants—acting not merely on their own account, but also with the consent of the insurance companies interested—that the "Mexico City" was liable to pay the damage sustained as a result of the collision. The only question in dispute seemed to be how much should be paid for damage. The admissions were of the clearest possible kind of actual liability for the collision itself. There was, no doubt, as Mr. Potter had pointed out, a considerable discrepancy as to the measure of damage which had been suffered. Further argument ensued and they knew now that the case was adjourned.

THE OLD FOLKS AND THE WAR.

Bearing A Heavy Burden.

Mr. Geo. R. Sims writes in the Observer:

"We realise, most of us, what the war has meant and still means to youth and to middle-age. Its tragedy and its sorrows have become part of our everyday life. We know how splendidly and how gallantly the young men of the Empire has answered the great call, how bidding a tender goodbye to the dear ties of home, it has gone with undaunted heart and had erect to fling itself fearlessly into the fury of the fray.

We know how willingly and whole-heartedly our young womanhood has volunteered for sisterly service in the hospitals and in the camps, and how bravely it has dared the perils the new methods of warfare carry far behind the battle front. We have seen our young womanhood lay aside the feminine arts and crafts and employments of peace to take up without a murmur the stern tasks of war. We have seen it carry on not only the work of war, but fill the places of men in our commercial undertakings and our industries, on the land and on the railways. We have seen it re-inforcing the police, assuring the continuance of the passenger traffic of the streets, and saving the postal system from confusion and delay.

We know with what brave hearts the young wives of the Empire have borne the pangs of parting and the ceaseless anxiety of the long years of war. We know how terrible has been the strain upon the mothers and fathers of the Empire, whose sons are at bay with a raging and ruthless foe on land and sea.

But few of us have quite realised the extent to which the world tragedy has affected the aged men and women who are nearing the journey's end, and who, as the war drags on, begin to fear that their eyes may never again see the land they love at peace. They have bravely endured the long years of alternate hope and fear, and now they are straining their eyes through the darkness watching for the first faint glimmer of light which will herald the dawn.

Youth that survives the toll of battle can find comfort in the knowledge that the happy days will come at last, and that in all that those happy days will mean will have its share.

The middle-aged have still a fair chance of knowing again the calm joys and peaceful pleasures of the pre-war days. They have had to endure the long hours of darkness, but for them the sun will shine again. Victory may be delayed, but it will come at last and bring balm for all their wounds. They will know at least that the dear ones they have lost have made the great sacrifice in vain.

But the old folks are oppressed with the haunting fear that they will have to pass into the great Silence with the fate of their beloved land and all they hold dear in it still trembling in the balance. They, too, have endured bravely. They have borne unmurmuringly the stress and privations that the conditions of war have brought upon us. They have been sustained by their faith in the justice of their country's cause and in the might and valour of the proud race to which they belong. But their eyes grow dimmer and their limbs more feeble, and their last days are disturbed and saddened by the thought that they may die and never know.

Death would have had no terrors for them if they could have died with the Song of Simeon on their lips: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation." It is the salvation of the Lord's cause, the cause of Justice and Freedom, it is the glory of the people of the free lands and of the people of their own race and blood that these patriarchs long to see ere they go hence.

It is not of themselves they are thinking as the shadows gather. It is of the Imperial race to which they belong, of the great Empire that they know is now fighting

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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for its very existence, and of the free and happy land in which their long and useful lives had been spent so peacefully.

In the evening of their days, with their life's work done, their task accomplished, the rest and peace that should have been theirs have been denied them. The cry of battle has reechoed in their ears. Many of them have lived on to see the young of their blood — those who answered the call of King and Country — pass to the tomb before them.

They have found themselves lingering in a world filled with the horrors of war, a war in which the hosts of Tyranny, armed with every murderous device, seek to slay or enslave the free peoples. From world at war with this Tyranny they themselves must soon pass, but in that world they are leaving their children and their children's children.

They pray that they may be permitted to linger here until the victory of Freedom over Tyranny has been achieved. They pray that they may be spared until their eyes have seen the salvation of the world; and until their hearts have been eased of all fear for the future of their land and their loved ones.

This is what I hear from the lips of the old folks who talk to me of the war. "Will those I leave behind me ever know again the happy, peaceful England in which I had lived my life until this terrible war came, and in which I once hoped and believed that I should die?"

The old folks whose summons comes now are not only passing into the Unknown. They are leaving the Unknown behind them. We cannot blame them for their haunting fear of the future. It is an unselfish fear, for they themselves have nothing to gain or lose by the fortunes of war. The suspense that harasses and embitters their last hold on life is not due to any lack of faith in their country's will to win or ability to win. It is the result of that hope deferred which tells even upon men and women in the full possession of their mental and physical powers.

The old folks know that with every hour their great hope is delayed their chance of knowing the joy of its realisation becomes more and more doubtful. It is this that has made the stress of the world war so heavy a burden for the old to bear.

Hospital Fund's Windfall.

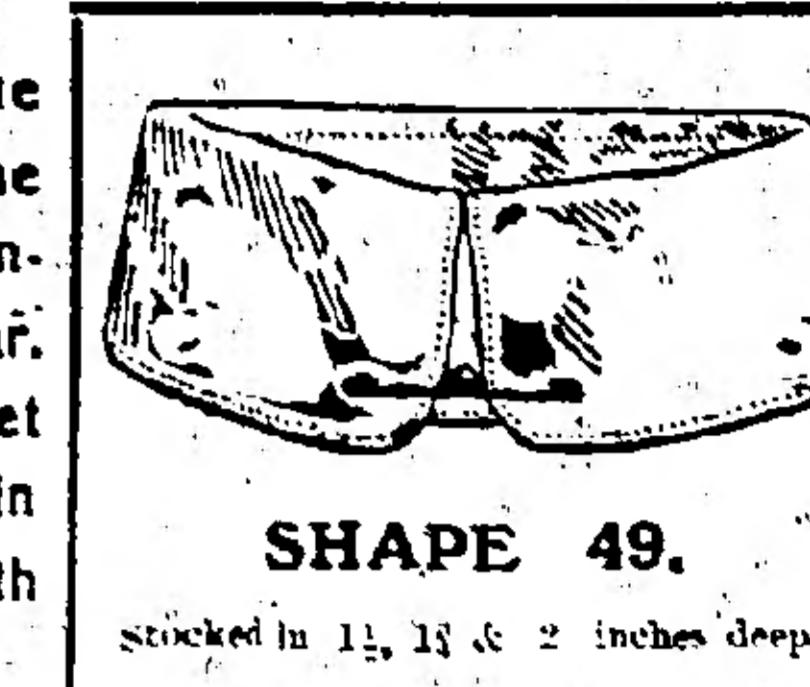
The residue of the estate of £49,953 left by Brigade-Surgeon John Law, of Guildford, after the payment of some £8,000 to his housekeeper and various charities the testator bequeathed to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

Cigarette Ration.

On General Pershing's recommendation, the War Department has recognised that tobacco is as much a necessity for soldiers as clothing and food. As soon as the new order goes into effect, to each soldier with the American forces will be issued a daily ration of 4-10 lbs. of an ounce of smoking tobacco and 10 cigarettes papers. As an alternative, four ready-made cigarettes will be issued, or, if preferred, 4-10 lbs. of an ounce of chewing tobacco. Just how 4-10 lbs. of an ounce is going to be issued to the men has not yet been determined, but the Quartermaster is now working out a plan.

Summit SOFT COLLARS

The Soft Collar is the vogue and Summit 49 is the one generally selected by discerning men for business wear. It needs no starch but yet conveys that distinction in dress always associated with Summit Collars.



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TIES	(Long Open End)	\$1.00
"	(Bow)	50 Cts.
HATS	(Felt)	\$2.95
DRESS SHIRTS	(Stiff Front)	\$1.75
"	(Pleated Front)	\$2.75
"	Etc.	

SEE WINDOW.

Enemy Aliens Sentenced at Shanghai.

Judgement was delivered on July 31 by the Mixed Court, Shanghai, comprising Mr. Grant Jones, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kasin, in the case in which O'Selke, formerly editor of the War, and Walter Rohr were charged in connection with the attempts alleged to have been made by them to reach Germany by means of forged passports. Both men were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.



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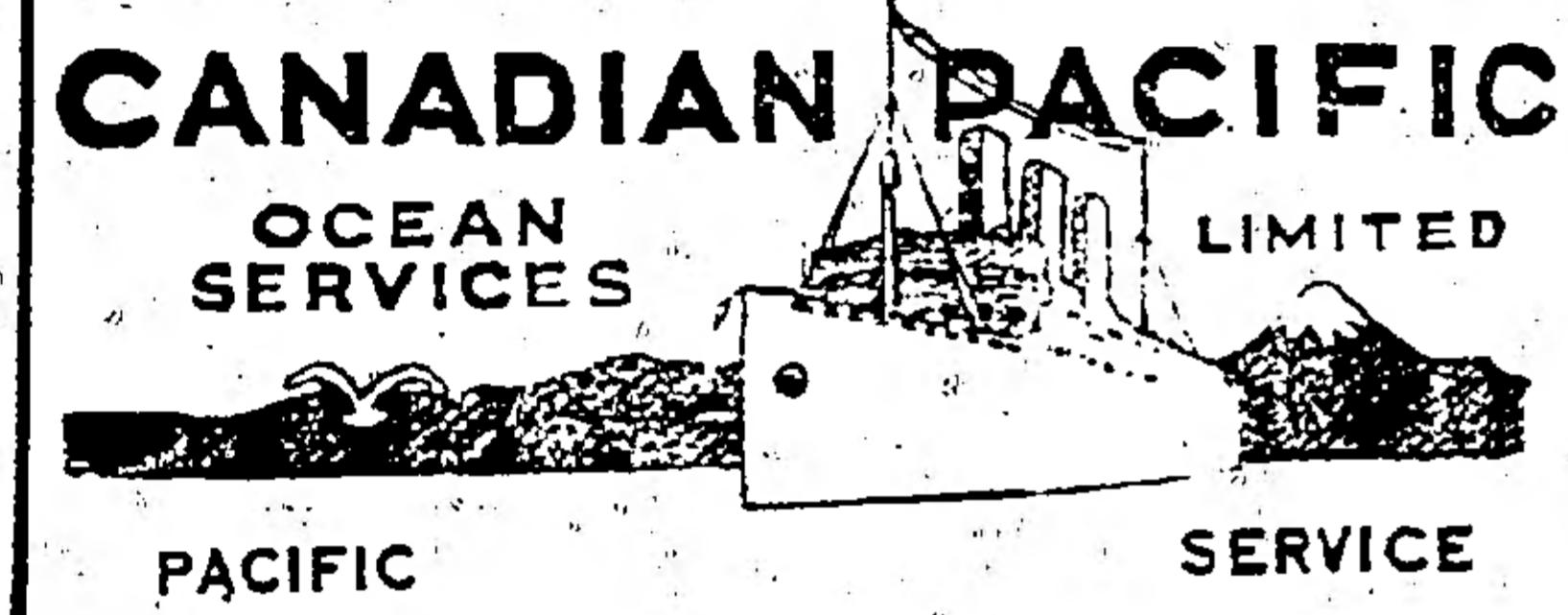
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P. L. Knight,
Acting Superintendent.



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Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on July 1, 1918.

CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS LEVEL.

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons.

Decimals of millions and decimals of gallons during the month of June.

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of July.

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of August.

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of September.

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EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from page 1)

"MYSTERY SHIP" FIGHTS A SUBMARINE.

London, Aug. 5.
Sir Eric Geddes related at a concert to American troops one of the most thrilling stories of naval warfare in which a decoy known as a "mystery ship" fought a submarine for five hours. The ship had the appearance of a dingy collier. The crew and captain, rigged up as merchantmen and appearing to be an undisciplined lot, sailed the Atlantic under sealed orders. They sighted a submarine which began shelling and overhauling the decoy as she was running away. Shells dropped on deck killing and wounding some of the crew. The captain signalled in plain English that as a submarine was shelling he was abandoning ship. Hours passed and the shelling continued. The ship took fire and the captain knew the magazine would soon explode, which occurred, leaving a gun overboard. The submarine then came in thinking she had got an easy prey, whereupon another gun was unmuzzled and fired most rapidly striking the submarine again and again and ultimately sinking the enemy. Warships below the horizon were called on and picked up the survivors.

The Germans now knew this ruse but the First Lord of the Admiralty and likewise Admiral Sims had now got other means of trapping the U-boats.

AIR RAIDS ON GERMANY.

Amsterdam, Aug. 5.
An official message from Treves on the 1st inst. did considerable damage, one being killed and four injured.

From Cologne it is reported that ten airmen dropped twenty-eight bombs during the morning of the 1st inst., causing some damage. Twelve were killed and fourteen injured.

BULGARIAN PEACE MOVE.

Athens, Aug. 5.
The "Hesita" affirms that the mysterious journey which Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria is making abroad is connected with a Bulgarian peace offensive.

THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH.

A Compromise Proposal.

Peking, 30th July.—The *Peking Leader*, referring to the conflict between the North and South, says that China can never be and is not isolated. "Whatever occurs in China is bound to have repercussion in other countries and, the whole world being at war, we must think in terms of our international right and duties above all. We are at war with the Central Powers and we have duties to perform towards our co-partners. We not only have been found wanting, but our aims are deliberately inviting foreign aggression."

To keep up the prestige of fighting for the last ten months has been bad enough, but forthcoming events threaten to plunge the country to even greater depths of misery and to still further lower the esteem of our Allies and friends.

According to public announcements China soon will have two parliaments, one in Peking and the other in Canton, both apparently meeting about 10th August. Now it is entirely out of the question for China to have two parliaments. It must be remembered that the people themselves are not divided into the so-called North and South, for there are Southern men, properly so-called, who are identified with the North as there are Northerners siding with the South. The division is between two rival military camps.

Whatever the outward professions of the two parliaments may be, it is obvious that in their heart of hearts there is not that feeling of assurance and security born of national unity and contentment. Were they to confess the truth, it would not be far from the preference that their positions should be properly legal and constitutional.

"The question is how to bring law and order out of the present chaos and muddle. We suggest that the North and South should compromise as follows:

"Both sides having decided their willingness to take up any reasonable proposition as the basis of mutual negotiations, let the North propose that the new Parliament scheduled to meet at Peking on 10th August will be dissolved if the Canton Parliament revises the old Parliamentary organisation law in such a way that the new Parliament evolved therefrom will be reduced to half of the former number of 870 and new members will be elected on a basis more in keeping with up-to-date conditions."

The *Leader* is of the opinion that such a suggestion, coming from the North, would have a greater chance of success than the

THE TAI O TRAGEDY.

Indian Constable Charged with Neglect of Duty.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this afternoon, Indian Constable B145 was charged with neglect of duty on the morning of July 17 at Tai O.

Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P., appeared for the prosecution and Mr. W. E. L. Shenton for the defence.

Mr. King stated that on the morning of July 17, defendant was on duty at Tai O from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

His post was outside the charge-room and he was armed with a rifle and 20 rounds of ammunition.

It was his duty to guard the station and warn the other police in the station of the presence of any suspicious person or craft.

He (Mr. King) was going to prove that Sergeant Glendinning was shot at Tai O on the morning of July 17 at 10.30 o'clock and that Tai O Station was set on fire between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Mr. King further stated that, according to the Police regulation, no constable was allowed to leave his post and that the rules were explained to the constables in Hindustani by the Jemadar.

He also stated that defendant was on duty at Tai O, and when he heard the shot being fired, instead of inquiring into the cause of it, ran away to the hill.

The Jemadar then went into the witness-box and stated that he was a Jemadar in the Hongkong Police Force, and it was his duty to instruct the constables with regard to the various rules in the Police Regulations.

He further stated that on recruits joining the Police

Force he instructed them for one month and after they had passed their examination they were only taught once a month at their stations.

Mr. Shenton then asked him whether he instructed the constables from the English text of the book, and the Jemadar replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Shenton then asked witness if he had any instructions as to what particular portion of the book he had to teach the constables, and he replied that he had none.

Mr. Shenton then asked whether he had on any particular occasion instructed defendant in these rules, and he replied that he could not remember.

Witness then produced a book covering the main points of the Hongkong Police Force Regulations which he used to instruct the constables.

Mr. Shenton asked witness whether he taught the constables from that book alone, and he replied "No," stating that he also used another book in instructing them.

Mr. Shenton then asked whether, in the course of instruction, he had orders from the O.S.P. to teach the constables in any particular point of the Regulations.

Witness replied that only some portions of it were ordered by the O.S.P. and the balance he taught them at his discretion.

Mr. Shenton then asked if he alone was in charge of instructing the constables, and he replied that the Sergeant-Major assisted him.

Mr. Shenton enquired when these duties were commenced, and Mr. King replied that they were commenced after the Cheung Chau piracy in 1912.

Mr. Shenton enquired where witness taught the constables the various rules, and he replied that whilst they were recruits he taught them at the Central Police Station, and afterwards at the various stations.

Further evidence was called. The case is proceeding.

American Lady Aviator.

Miss Katherine Stinson—the report of whose death in an accident has not yet been confirmed—in May last was sworn in as a Government mail clerk and made a journey from Chicago to New York carrying mail, in the course of which, though forced to descend once, she broke two aviation records, the distance record of 700 miles without a stop, and the endurance record which she herself established in December last.

TYPHOONS AND SMALL-POX.

Interesting Article from Manila.

Discussion that has been going the rounds of certain circles that ought to be better informed, to the effect that typhoons serve to prevent the spread of small-pox, is scored in a bulletin of the Philippine health service which declares that such talk is bad or worse than medieval sorcery. The only known method of combating small-pox, or preventing its spread, is through vaccination.

The bulletin points out; all other weird tales to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Strange are the machinations of man's cultured mind," says the statement, "and weird are the seemingly sincere outbursts therefrom. The relation of small-pox to typhoons is one of the latest and most amazing examples of this imperious mental attitude.

"Were it not a sad commentary on contemporary intelligence, it would be a matter of keen comedy when men solemnly rise on their banches and affirm that small-pox is amenable to typhoons. Yet this ridiculous acknowledgment of medieval sorcery is being actively bruited about the city, fostered by the unimpeachable authority of otherwise rational men."

"The exact manner in which typhoons hold their occult power over small-pox must of necessity be left to the imagination of those hazy uneducated minds which first engendered the thought. Such people are perfectly capable of arguing that anything but a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. And the most significant feature of such irrational deductions is that there always seem to be plenty of listeners."

"The implied discourtesy to popular intelligence of having to state baldly that the weather does not influence small-pox any more than it does arithmetic, must in this case be extenuated, since typhoons as the only sure prevention of small-pox are getting altogether too wide a publicity."

"In this connection and while in a properly elementary form of mind, let it be stated unequivocally that vaccination is the only means so far discovered which will in any material way check the incidence of small-pox."

"The experience of the French and German armies, during the Franco-German war, 1870-71, is worth nothing. The German soldiers were vaccinated on enlistment; although the vaccination at that time was optional for the civilian population. In France, vaccination was carried out very perfidiously, both amongst civilians and the military. Both armies were attacked by small-pox."

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covering the main points of the Hongkong Police Force Regulations which he used to instruct the constables.

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THE WOMEN'S ARMY.

Wonderful Grit of the W. A. A. C.

Nothing can appal the Boy Scout. He comes up smiling and asks for another ship after a torpedo attack, and introduces himself as ballast into our aircraft.

"Every now and then," an official at the Scouts' Headquarters recently explained to a *Daily Chronicle* representative, "the boys drop in here with beaming faces to announce that they have been torpedoed. Then you won't want to go to sea again?" we usually inquire, with mock solemnity. "Father!" they indignantly reply, "Won't I just!" Certainly the experience of being torpedoed or mined never acts as a deterrent."

The women who immediately afterwards went out to investigate these charges were selected either

for their scientific attainments,

or for their social work, like

Miss Fiction Turberville, Chief

of the Young Women's

Christian Association.

The most searching and unbiased

investigation has had the effect,

not merely of utterly disproving

every allegation against the girls

and one, joining a life-boat crew

that was shot handed, was out

all night on the stormy sea, and

playing a manly part in the work

of rescue. The Sea Scouts, it was

stated, have "distinguished" themselves

in numerous cases of

life-saving, prompt dispatch-rid-

ing, fire extinguishing, and var-

ious confidential services."

Flax boeing is the latest work

of national importance to be

undertaken by Boy Scouts.

Today a number of East-end Scouts

will journey to Peterborough

there to undertake the boeing of

the flax which, in order to provide

material for aeroplane wings, is

being cultivated for the Govern-

ment. The Peterborough district

will absorb about 350 of these

young patriots (who are consecrat-

ing to this object their Whitsun

holidays), and 105 will go to

Yevil, where the soil has proved

suitable for flax.

By a development of their

original plan the Flax Produc-

tion Commissions have decided

also to employ 1,000 Boy Scouts

for "pulling" and harvesting the

crop in July and August. Thus

ever widening is the area of

valuable war service.

A month or two ago the auth-

orities inaugurated a scheme under

which some hundreds of Sea

Scouts are serving in the mercan-

tile marine as "bridge boys,"

their duties being to assist in

signalling, to attend telephones,

to run messages, and generally

to help the quartermaster. This

is now yielding a supply of

youths who are being assisted on

their way to become petty officers.

TORPEDOED BOY SCOUTS.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

Even in these days of literary depression the ten "intellectuals" of the Goncourt Academy continue their annual award of the Goncourt Prize.

The will of the Goncourt brothers destined the prize "to remunerate a work of imagination—the best novel, the best collection of short stories, the best volume of impressions, the best volume of imaginative writing in prose, and exclusively in prose, published in the year."

For the last four years all the prizes have gone to war writers. Last year the Goncourt Prize book was "Le Feu" ("Under Fire"), written by Henri Barbusse—an award confirmed by the great reputation which the work has lately achieved. This year the honour has gone to Henri Malherbe, a newspaper correspondent, unknown as an author even in France.

His book, "La Flamme au Poing," is also a war-book, but escapes from the stark realism of "Le Feu."

It attempts to give us something beyond the mere mechanism and brutal

materialism of battle, and is in

distinct contrast to the present

naturalist tendency in war literature.

RECONSTRUCTION AND REFORMATION.

What Will Happen.

There are two main spirits in which men hope to benefit their fellow, sometimes hastily labelled as the spirit of optimism and the spirit of pessimism, but more truly described as that of politics and that of religion or philosophy, and their rival parades are efficiency and what to distinguish it from technical training, may be called culture, defined as "the contemplation of life and nature with the appropriate emotions," says the *Manchester Guardian*.

That the happiness and virtue of humanity can in no way be effected by our efforts is a paradox whose absurdity, though often implied by this defensive cynicism of the greedy, is refuted by every moment of our lives. If we made no efforts for the support of ourselves and our families most of us would speedily be starving, and, since average morality is not of the martyr's fortitude, nothing but the workhouse could save us from at least deserving the goal. We believe that we can improve the conditions of life for our children, and that with improved conditions virtue, if not morality in the strict sense in which it is independent of circumstance, is more likely to be achieved. There need be no question here of perfectibility; it is something if we can stave off material brutalisation by keeping the wolf from our doors. Only when the sphere proposed for our activity is widened beyond that of our afflictions are we driven to invent a theory to account for our diminished interest and to ask whether men have ever been made better, or even happier, by Acts of Parliament.

In its most plausible form such criticism, tacitly admitting the value of personal services, fastens upon Governmental action; nor is it difficult to quote instances or array impressive figures to prove the mistaken aims and the detailed blunders of Boards of Education and of Agriculture. All such organisation, it is urged, is necessarily mechanical, devised by remote officials ignorant even of general conditions, and once started it puts everything through the same mill, ploughing up prime pastures and training the gifted shepherd for discontented and mediocre office-boy. But even in our own households we cannot avoid machinery if we would escape chaos; and, human force, sight and energy being limited, we shall make mistakes in ordering the outlay of our gerdens and our children's schooling which might have been escaped if, with undivided attention, we could have executed all ourselves. Who wants a thing well done does it himself, but to try to do everything is to do all badly; finite beings, to prosper moderately, must specialize, and delegate some of their proper business to their helpers.

These limitations are necessary, but it is gratuitous stupidity to elevate them into our ideal and to pour scorn on the generosity of living intercourse as a mere tinkering in the leeks of a rotten system. It may be that any particular system should be scrapped, but when it is replaced it will itself only be kept water-tight by the patient good will of those who man it. I have taken part in a discussion by working Socialists upon St. Francis where it was seriously argued that his life and character, however attractive, must be condemned as uneconomical and as a palpable palliation of corruption!

But the old prevailing leaven of laziness and dishonesty will infect the new order as it did the other; presbyter is but priest writ large, graft vents our avarice as well as did the rotten boroughs, and the taint of tyranny which descended from the slave trade to the individualism of capital will be inherited by Socialist bourgeoisie. If we envisage the League of Nations itself as a majorly police rather than as a new spirit, clothing itself, no doubt, in some external sanctions, we must expect to find both criminal and conscientious martyrs defying it, as they have defied the creedance of the K'ng's.

GALLEY RUMOURS.

Where they Come From.

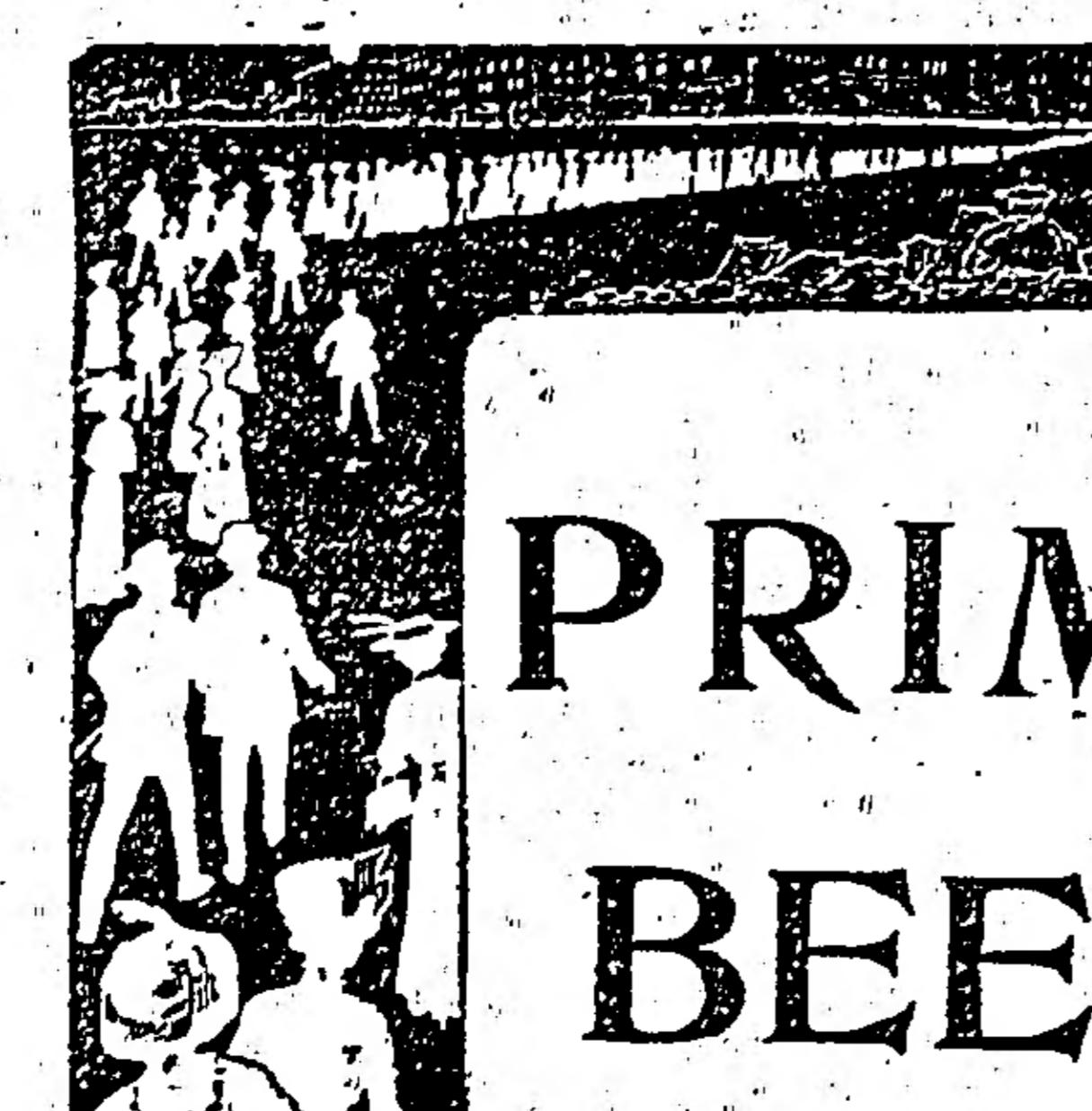
The galley always had a genius for making a little go a long way. A week's supply of curvy and rice could easily be made to last a fortnight, and a whisper from the captain's book would come down to the mess along with the coffee and potat'-hash magnified a thousand times and with more than one touch of romance. Each ship had its Intelligence Department with Headquarters situated in the galley, whence bulletins were issued three times daily—at breakfast, dinner, and tea.

Our head cook—his pretence never leaked out—was a seafarer, a seer, an authority on navigation and weather signs, a man whose sense of smell seemed to tell him what he was sailing, but an utter failure at cookery. This was a common failing with trooper cooks. They were remarkable for their durance, and give place to new but our infidelity fulfills itself in many ways. Nothing profane but a new creature. It is when we remember these things, and when we hear the extravagant claims made for reorganisation and the wild hopes based on it, most of all when its machinery is idolised as in itself an end, while the conversion of the individual to gentleness, wisdom, virtue, and endurance is forgotten, that we could sympathise even with the scepticism which sees in no reformation but a new shackle upon the limbs of native freedom. We are always tempted to compare the elect and forcible characters, which appear in all classes and in spite of all government, with mediocre masses, who owe their mediocrity to a system without which they would not have been respectable.

If it is when we think of our friends and families that we most clearly recognise the necessity and use of working for them, and even of organising life on their behalf; it is in thinking of ourselves that we most question the effectiveness of such material conditioning. Only while we are very young can we amuse ourselves with the pleasing grievance that had things but been otherwise, had we been richer or stronger or better befriended, or lived in other times or places, we needed no change in ourselves to be "good, great and joyous, beautiful and free." When we ponder ourselves more maturely, grumble as we may at fate, we know in our hearts that happiness largely, though not entirely, lies in its springs within us; that many men are only soured by prosperity and some indomitably cheerful in every circumstance of hardship.

When we get united the two characters, that of the industrialist and that of the genial neighbour with his gift for friendship among all ranks and callings, we come near perfection. Unhappily the two talents most often seem antagonistic. There is apt in the theorist to be something chilly, something careless of the individual life; and in the other some easy contempt for abstract systems. We come back to the types of Milton and Shelley on the one hand and Keats and Shakespeare on the other. If we try to grasp the truth of both views, organisation must be regarded as the machinery of life, and culture, in the almost religious or philosophical sense we gave it, as the life itself, the end to which machinery is an indispensable means. But it is a fatal though common error to divide our existence harshly into six days of scuttlery drudgery and a Sabbath when the week's routine may well have left us too full for anything but a debauch of sentimentality. The opposed methods are theoretically capable of a more real synthesis or interpretation, to which even practice may approximate; if we remember that on the one hand, in its ideal organisation would cease to be mechanical by carrying insight and interest into every detail, and on the other that, just as far as the personal relations of man with man could become universally wise as well as benevolent, the need for external organisation would disappear. By this road our public activities would be vitalised and our personal contacts ordered, till the uncivilised anarchy which descended from the slave trade to the individualism of capital will be inherited by Socialist bourgeoisie. If we envisage the League of Nations itself as a majorly police rather than as a new spirit, clothing itself, no doubt, in some external sanctions, we must expect to find both criminal and conscientious martyrs defying it, as they have defied the creedance of the K'ng's.

VISITING THE HOME OF



STOCKED AND SOLD BY ALL
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, HOTELS & CLUBS.
H. RUTTONJEE & SON,
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

was right after all. A sleek little destroyer met us, full of pride. We followed in her wake, past anchorages where submerges, both French and English, moved about in swarms like large fish and cruisers and gunboats backed, awaiting orders. It was a fine scene, grim and very earnest, with the warships grey against the warm background. As we settled in the Grand Harbour the senior M.O. told out names of the men who were to disembark. One does not easily forget that group of sick and wounded "walking cases" gathered about the doctor, each of whom cherished some long-deferred hope of home which now might be destroyed, and although he spoke sharply, even indifferently, one suspected that the doctor was conscious that the utterance of each name meant a sledge-hammer blow to somebody. Many castles in the air had been built during the voyage. The list was long, and some went down to their cabins sick at heart, their dreams lingering until it became a mockery. In the cabins between decks there was grumbling and swearing as the listed men prepared to leave, but soon acute tenseness had gone from all the faces, and resignation crept in, tinged sometimes with humour—the same facetiousness that had saved the situation many times before. The worst had happened, and it was either forgotten or ridiculed until home was made to seem preposterous and most inopportune desire.

The galley said we were heading for Malta. This news was passed from deck to deck and from mess to mess until the whole body of men aboard had heard of it, and yet it was turned down by everybody without a moment's hesitation. Galley news, though it was amusing, even fascinating on occasion, and though without it there would have been no speculation, no hopes and fears, was never taken seriously. It was therefore presumed that our good ship was bound for Port Said or Alexandria or "Gib," or perhaps even Plymouth. After they had left us we coal-ed. The galley professed to know the capacity of our bunkers, so that as we left the ancient Malta the rumour came down that it was "Gib," and beyond. Late one evening that mighty guardian of the Mediterranean took us into its rock bosom, and thence we passed out into a heavy sea and turned our faces towards home. Now

"Plymouth" came down with the porridge and sausages, and this time our pulses quickened, and the turbines and the log seemed to romp with us in our ecstasy. We felt it must be true. That pile of beneath the tarpaulin, which was said to be a gun, became a centre of interest, although its breech had not seen daylight since we put out to sea. But we felt that the submarine that could stop our course had not yet been invented.

There was one alarm, but we

made Plymouth without mishap

and it seemed that the ship would burst because of the great joy within it. Yet one had time

whilst walking down the gang-

way to think of those left behind at Malta, and to hope that they,

too, would some day find a

galley which was right when it

for to be at sea on a ship that said "Plymouth." Arthur W.

might go anywhere, and yet to

realise the finality of a well-

directed torpedo, was to contrast

very forcibly the days of Haw-

kins and Drake, when strength

was security, with these when a

thousand men could be blown to

atoms by pressing an electric

button, and small things, being

fortified by science, were great

and formidable.

Early on our fourth morning at

sea there was much excitement.

"Malta! Malta!" The galley

Sight Restored by Thunder Clap. Awakened by a terrific clap of thunder, Private Peter Sheridan, South Lancashire Regiment, of Ormskirk, who had been blind through shell shock for a year, has recovered his sight. The doctor says it is an effect of shock and that the recovery will be permanent.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Gold Production in Korea.

The output of gold from mines in Korea has been steadily on the decrease since last year. The decrease is more marked this year, says the *Seoul Press*, the total output obtained during the first six months being only Y3,200,000, or a decrease of last year. It may seem that the rate of decrease is not very big, but the fact is that it is witnessed principally with regard to the output from mines managed by Japanese and Koreans, as big mines managed by foreigners, such as the Unsan, Sun, and Chiksan mines are maintaining their rental value. The output of gold from the Unsan, Sun, and Chiksan mines accounts for 60 per cent. of the total output throughout the peninsula. This means that the gold from these three mines during the first six months of last year amounted in value to Y2,280,000, and that from mines managed by Japanese and Koreans, to Y1,500,000. Consequently decrease of Y600,000 on Y1,500,000 is by no means small.

Big Chinese Factory for Dyeing.

A new factory for mercerising, dyeing and weaving is being built at Huang-kung, Yangtsze-poo, by Mr. Tong Yu-chen, a young and enterprising Chinese. The capital will be Y1,400,000 and Mr.

Tong will be the sole manager of the business. The dyestuffs will be supplied by Tang Hui Mow, Dye Importer, 157-159 Rue de Mission, sole agent for Swiss dyes in this city, and Tang Tai Company, on Kiu-kiang-Fokien Road, importers of aniline dyes and chemicals from the United States. According to Mr. Tang Tai, vice-president of Tang Tai Company, the construction of the factory was begun two months ago and will be completed in four more months. Mr. Tai will leave for Japan to secure materials and machinery for the factory. Mr. Tai is a business man of wide experience, having travelled through the United States about a year ago. His son who has been studying the dye business in Hamburg, for six years is now held a prisoner of war since China has entered the ranks of the belligerents.

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and it seemed that the ship would burst because of the great joy

within it. Yet one had time

whilst walking down the gang-

way to think of those left behind at Malta, and to hope that they,

too, would some day find a

galley which was right when it

for to be at sea on a ship that said "Plymouth." Arthur W.

might go anywhere, and yet to

realise the finality of a well-

directed torpedo, was to contrast

very forcibly the days of Haw-

kins and Drake, when strength

was security, with these when a

thousand men could be blown to

atoms by pressing an electric

button, and small things, being

fortified by science, were great

and formidable.

Early on our fourth morning at

sea there was much excitement.

"Malta! Malta!" The galley

Sight Restored by Thunder Clap. Awakened by a terrific clap of thunder, Private Peter Sheridan, South Lancashire Regiment, of Ormskirk, who had been blind through shell shock for a year, has recovered his sight. The doctor says it is an effect of shock and that the recovery will be permanent.

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